SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Please, let the Government give an assurance in the House.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (मध्य प्रदेश): सर, जो वृंदा कारत जी ने कहा है, मैं अपने को उससे एसोसिएट करती हूं।

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, please, let the Government give an assurance in the House above this.

श्रीमती माया सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश): सर, मैं माननीय सदस्या की बात से अपने को सम्बद्ध करती हूं।

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, ठीक है। ...(**व्यवधान**).... यह सब रिकार्ड में आ जाएगा। श्री ए. विजय राघवन

Need to take effective measures to release nearly 2000 Indians languishing in Oman jails

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, nearly 2000 Indians have been arrested and kept in jail in Oman. Nearly 15,000 Indians are overstaying in Oman without valid documents. The main reason of this overstay is due to the lack of timely renewal of labour card and visa by the respective employees in Oman. Nearly 2000 Indian citizens have been arrested and kept in jail under inhuman conditions. They are not getting even water and sufficient food. Even toilet facilities are not there. Sir, our Government has railed in intervening and helping the Indian citizens who are in jail: Sir, the situation is like this. The Embassy is supposed to help in their evacuation from Oman to India. It is without sufficient staff and the Ambassador in that country is also not taking positive step for the release of the Indians in Oman jail. Earlier there was proper discussion with the Indian organisation, and there were open house discussions. Now, the new Ambassador in Oman has stopped that process. He is at loggerheads with Indian associations in Oman. The situation is very bad. Normally, the high-ranking officials of the Indian

Government visit to resolve such kind of an issue. But, so far, no high-ranking official from our country has visited that place. Our Government has miserably failed to address the problem. Sir, the Government has to take earnest steps and resolve the problem regarding the release of the poor Indians who are under custody and in miserable conditions. Sir, they have to do something.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I would like to associate myself with this issue. It is a very important issue.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Kerala): Sir, five hundred people are already in the custody there. They are starving.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him speak. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Sir, what is submitted here by them is not based on fact. *...(interruptions)...* This is not true. There, Indians have been rounded up in an operation launched by the Omanese Government to find out the illegal aliens living in that country. In the process, they have rounded up three thousand people, out of which, there are about 900 Indians. All those people who have produced the documents, showing that they are not illegal aliens, have been released. Other people have been repatriated to India. They have been deported to India. During that time, of course, they have not been jailed; they have not been put in any other place, except a camp with other people. It is not specifically against India; it is not against the Keralite people. *...(Interruptions)...*

The second thing, Sir, I would like to say is about Al-Shaafa camp. About four thousand people have been rounded up by them, out of which, there are more than one thousand Indians. 1914 Indians have been detained. Of these, 884 Indians have already been released on producing the documents. 641 have been repatriated to India. Now, there are only 389 people under detention. On verification of report, when they find that they don't have valid documents, they will be repatriated.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, the Ambassador told me 850 openly a day before yesterday....*(Interruptions)...*

SHRI E. AHAMMED: You are speaking about the day before yesterday, but, I am speaking about yesterday. That is the only difference. Another

thing is, Sir, our embassy was the only embassy which worked hard. Four officers have been deputed there. Our Ambassador and all the officials have already visited. Sir, I don't know where the hon. Member had gone. I have also been in constant touch with the Manpower Minister of the Sultanate of Oman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please talk to him.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, it is tragic. Fifteen thousand Indians are there. The Government has to do something positive in their favour.

SHRI AMAR SINGH (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, we are not interested in that. We are interested in the redressal of their poor condition. *...(Interruptions)*... Don't mislead us with statistics*...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a serious matter. *(Interruptions)* You should take it into consideration and solve it out.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, a campaign is going on that the Government has failed miserably. Is it not a sovereign right of a country to find out the illegal aliens in that country? When they found out that some people are not having valid documents, they are to be sent back. This is the sovereign right of a country. Oman is one of the countries with which India has excellent bilateral relation*s...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude*...(Interruptions)...*Please conclude.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Therefore, Sir, it is not based on facts. I would like to say that the Government of India has done everything. Our Embassy is very active*...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Government of India has been doing so many things. You do one thing on my saying, you take your seat. *...(Interruptions)...*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: How many are under custody?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, now, Dr. Barun Mukherjee.

SHRI A. VIJAYRAGHAVAN: Sir, he has to send, at least, a senior official there. He has to send a senior official. Sir, two Ministers are here. One Minister is totally unemployed. Send one of them*...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Barun Mukherjee—absent. Shri C. Perumal.... *(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, this is a very serious matter. I do not know how he has got the news that we are fighting with the ambassador... *(Interruptions)...*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat...*(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: We are not fighting with the Ambassador. We are raising a very important issue...*(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri C. Perumal.

High prevalence of chikun gunya, disease in Tamil Nadu

SHRI C. PERUMAI (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Tamil Nadu has been affected by chikun gunya, a new disease. Out of a population of 6 crore in the State, more than 50 lakh people have been affected by this disease. The affected persons are not getting medicines, and this disease is fast spreading. Already, many lives have been lost. In the Government hospitals, medicines and injections are not available. The State Government has not taken any steps to arrest the spread of this disease. In many hospitals, there is only one doctor. In Krishnagiri district, in Mathur, there is only one doctor in the General Hospital to attend the cases. In Salem General Hospital, 33 nurses have been affected by this disease. And on top of this, the Union Health Minister, who belongs to Tamil Nadu, has, no time for this. Moreover, it is understood that there is no laboratory in the State to determine the cause and virus of this disease, and the laboratory is located in Pune only. I demand that the Prime Minister should intervene in the matter personally to save the people of Tamil Nadu from this dreaded disease, and also from the inaction of the State Government. The National Institute of Virology at Pune is refusing to accept the samples sent from Tamil Nadu due to inadequate facilities and shortage of staff. I demand that at least, one laboratory should be set up in every State to detect this disease and virus. Sir, for your information, one hon. Member, who was affected by this disease, was admitted inro this hospital... *(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perumal, you have raised the matter properly. Now, you take your seat.

SHRI G. PERUMAI: Thank you, Sir.